

The Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1911.

WANTED—THE BEST.
 "The reformer doesn't always attack the motive of his opponent, nor does he always have to claim that the conditions to be corrected are worse in his community than anywhere else. I haven't heard that Atlanta has had abuses in her city government. I have not been told that Atlanta has been graft-ridden. But what they have told me everywhere is that Atlanta is a city that will be satisfied with none but the best."

This statement, made by William J. Bryan to the people of Atlanta at a recent mass-meeting, is equally applicable to Richmond. In both these cities the people desire a better form of government than that under which they now live, but neither their desires nor the efforts of those who are leading them can fairly be construed to imply that the present government is corrupt, graft-affording and wrongful or that Councilmen deserve reprimand and reproach. Seeking the best government casts no moral reflection on a less efficient form of city rule. Richmond, like Atlanta, should be satisfied with none but the best government, and he is a poor citizen indeed who does not insist that the government of his city shall be the best possible. In Atlanta, there is organized opposition from the City Council to the commission form of government proposed for that city by its leading citizens, notably its business men.

Mr. Bryan went on to tell his hearers that he had never found a city in which the commission form of government has failed to be a success. It has been criticized, but no new form of government pleases all at the outset. "Often people are too confident in a form of government, and fail to do their duty." However, continues Mr. Bryan, "I believe the principle of commission government is sound, and I feel sure that it will prove a success and a vast improvement over the old system."

The commission plan, Mr. Bryan thinks, is better for large cities than for small, meaning, supposedly, that the opportunity for graft is much larger in a great city than in a small one. A lack of responsibility has ever been one of the chief faults with the aldermanic plan of city administration.

There has been much graft in the big cities—New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and cities of their class. All municipalities should take warning from this fact, realizing that the larger they grow, the greater, under the aldermanic form of government, are the opportunities and the field for corruption. The citizens of every city should, therefore, be warned by the lot of greater cities to take such steps to correct and reform their mode of government that the potential source of great harm and wrong may be destroyed. On this point, Mr. Bryan says:

"The duty of all the people of this city, as all cities, is to remove the temptation for graft and to strengthen their officials. Commission government places men in the glare of public life, where they can be watched all the time, where they cannot escape responsibility. It puts the burden on them to make good with their constituents, and experience has shown they don't go wrong."

Ward lines are unjustifiable, according to Mr. Bryan. "There is no reason for them," he declares. "If there is no reason for them, they ought not to exist. There are two reasons for States and counties, in the national and in the State representative forms of government. The first is that the character of remote people cannot be judged except by representative delegates, and the second is they have a diversity of interests." The exact opposite is true of the city. All the community constitutes a unit. The man in one ward knows and does business with the man in another ward. The ward system divides power and scatters responsibility among many. As a result of this, it is difficult to get men to serve as councilmen out of purely patriotic motives. The remuneration is small if any at all; the duties are arduous.

"Therefore they often go in for log-rolling reasons," concludes Mr. Bryan, who goes on to say:

"A city government is purely a business proposition. It is a great big business, and all the citizens are stockholders. They ought to elect their officials just as the stockholders of a corporation elect their directors, and then hold them responsible. The great trouble with most cities is that business principles have not been applied to the handling of business affairs. Why create an office simply to put a man into it? Under a commission form of government you can select men of character and ability and put them on good salaries, in the glare of publicity, and they will justify the confidence reposed in them and give your city a good government economically administered."

Other cities are succeeding with a new form of government. No one can show why Richmond would not. It is not a question of whether commission government is sound and right. That

is settled. It is a question of how long it will take Richmond to profit by the example of others.

THE REV. DR. JOHN POLLARD.
 The "strong staff and the beautiful rod" of a life nobly lived were broken yesterday, when the Rev. Dr. John Pollard heard the "one clear call" of the Captain in whose service he had spent half a century. One of the strong, fine figures in the Baptist Church of Virginia, he is mourned by the great host who knew him as pastor and spiritual leader. No less deep is the sorrow of the vast company of students who sat at his feet during the fifteen years of his scholarly labors as professor of English in Richmond College. Unnumbered others knew him as a fearless fighter for the right, as a genuine citizen and patriot, as one of wondrous capacity for friendship, as a stricken sufferer, yet patient and of serene faith, joyous in the expectation of that day when he might see his Master face to face. He left the world better than he found it, and his memory is blessed.

THE BEST THING HE KNEW.
 Perhaps charity is never so sweet as in hot weather. The Minneapolis Journal tells a pleasing story about a man in Kansas City who was asked by a reporter if he had any news. The man replied that he had something better than news, but not too good to print.

It was the story of a prominent manufacturer, who, starting out for a ride in his motor car to escape the 100 degree heat that persisted in the city even after sunset, bethought himself of other people who needed a relief from the excessive heat more than he did.

So he rang up the nearest settlement house and said he would like to take two passengers for a drive—"the two that needed it most."

A few moments later he picked up at the address given him by the settlement office a poor woman who had just been discharged from a hospital. She had a sick baby that had scarcely slept for several days. The mother was nearly exhausted from caring for the child. After fifteen minutes in the open air in the car the child went to sleep and slept without cessation for two hours. The mother was revived and strengthened. She saw the boulevard, the Cliff Drive, Electric Park, Penn Valley Park and other parks for the first time, although she had lived in Kansas City for many years.

As the Journal says, "While this is not always a practical thing for every motor owner to do, there are times when it might be easily done by some of them. It is a practical charity and in addition it might become the greatest pleasure ride the owner could have." There certainly would be no difficulty in any city or town in finding poor people to whom a cool ride would be more pleasing and beneficial than money itself.

THE GREAT BANANA.

In a late issue of "The Bulletin," the publication of the Pan-American Union, there is a very interesting article with full information about what has come to be a staple food article in this country, and consequently a commodity that enters very largely into our foreign commerce—the banana. More than 125 steamers are now in the banana-carrying trade, and Baltimore, according to the Star of that city, next to New York, is the main port of delivery in this great and rapidly increasing commerce. There has lately been a merger of several of the lines controlling the banana business, as a result of which several millions of dollars will be invested in additional steamships, with a corresponding spread in the sources of supply. This enlarged company controls unexcelled terminals.

The banana is not only an important commodity in the water-borne commerce of the United States, but, as the Star points out, in recent years has entered extensively into our inland commerce. Last year there were distributed throughout the United States and Canada more than 60,000 carloads of this familiar tropical fruit. Each carload represented 500 bunches. Costa Rica leads the banana producing countries, but the supply distributed through this country comes from more than twenty Southern sea islands and other tropical places. The business of banana culture is continuously and speedily expanding in response to the continuously growing demand. Railroad lines have been built in the banana growing countries that are sustained almost wholly by the transportation of this fruit from the interior of the coast. The banana is much more important than one would think. It is figuring largely in world commerce.

RAILROAD BUSINESS GROWING.

Poor's Manual of Railroads for 1911, which was published Wednesday, is itself evidence of the great extent to which the transportation business in the United States has grown. For it is a bulky volume of almost 3,000 pages. From its small beginnings two generations ago, The American railroad industry has expanded until it is now represented by a capital stock of \$4,326,519,120, a bonded debt of \$5,600,431,506, other bond obligations of nearly \$1,000,000,000 and total liabilities of \$21,935,369,766. Considering the first two items, for use as a comparison, it is seen that there has been a tremendous increase in the last ten years; the capital stock in 1900 was only \$5,891,346,250 and the bonded indebtedness \$5,758,552,751. In the meantime, however, there has been a very great increase in the value of the railroad property of the country and in its earning power. Gross earnings in 1900 were \$1,501,695,378 and net earnings \$483,247,528; in 1910 gross rose to \$2,801,550,939 and net to \$915,060,312.

These latest figures may be compared with profit with the corresponding totals for 1909. Gross earnings in the earlier year were \$2,519,212,763 and net \$852,153,250. It should be noted that just what is meant by the year 1910 by the compilers of the manual is not clear. Seemingly, however, some of the figures are for the fiscal year ending June 30, while others are for the calendar year ending December 31. The compilers work out a gross increase of 11.59 per cent. over 1909, while the Interstate Commerce Commission, using the reports for the year ending June 30 figures the gain at more than 14 per cent. The important fact is that there was a substantial gross increase, accompanied by an increase in net, calculated by Poor at 7.85 per cent.

There are now 242,107 miles of steam road track in the United States, against 238,356 miles a year ago. The increase, 3,751 miles, is small compared with that of some earlier years, but is enough to show that we are still building railroads at a very good rate. The total length of the railroads of the world is about 636,000 miles, our share of which is nearly 40 per cent. Against our 212,107 miles, Russia has 41,000; Germany, 57,000; India, 31,000; France, 36,000; Austria-Hungary, 26,000; the United Kingdom, 23,280; Canada, 22,966; Australia, 16,250; and Argentina, 15,500. If there are added to the figures for this country the figures for second, third and fourth tracks, siding, etc., it will be found that the aggregate is 349,570 miles, against 343,587 in 1909, and 333,774 in 1908 and 324,033 in 1907. Further testimony to the late growth of the business is to be found in such details as have to do with the increase in the size of the rolling stock in use. Thus a new locomotive for the Aitchison road has an aggregate weight of 462,150 pounds, or, with the tender, 700,000 pounds, as much as a whole train would have weighed a few years back.

WHAT'S HIS GRUDGE?

That would be Warwick of the Democratic hosts, the editor of the Commonwealth, who has published a list of men whom he names as "eligible" for the Democratic nomination for the presidency.

Woodrow Wilson and Champ Clark are notable in the list. Folk is counted in, as well as Heke Smith, Governor Marshall, of Indiana and Senator Culberson, of Texas. Nor are Shafroth, of Colorado, and Ollie James, of Kentucky, allowed to play hide and seek any more. Chief Justice Walter Clark, of North Carolina, is given a seat on the wagon, as well as Governor Plaisted, of Maine. From the far West, Mr. Bryan calls Senator Chamberlain, of Oregon, and Senator Newlands, of Nevada. Senator Kern, of course, would do, and Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, is admitted. Even Dix, of New York, can come into the Commonwealth's front yard.

Inspection of this list suggests at once the omission of Governor Harmon, of Ohio. Yet he has a hundred-fold better chance for the nomination than most of the men on the Bryan list. This is plainly a declaration of war upon Harmon. It is equivalent to saying that in the opinion of Mr. Bryan the Ohioan is unfit for the presidency.

But why? That the Nebraskan has no love for "Uncle Jud" has been known a long time, but surely Mr. Bryan does not think that the Democratic party will repudiate one of its distinguished sons simply because Mr. Bryan doesn't like him. Is Mr. Bryan so foolish as to believe that he can plead "incompatibility" and get by with it? All fair-minded Democrats are from Missouri in this matter.

POLLUTING A PURITAN POND.

Laurence R. Grose, of Boston, who probably wears big black tortoise shell spectacles and drinks copious draughts of tea, has been complaining bitterly to the Boston Transcript about the quality of the boys who are now swimming in Walden Pond, near Concord, made famous by the forest hermit, Thoreau. He has visited this sacred puddle lately and his Barret Wendell sense of the aesthetic has been rudely shocked by the fact that he found there "boys of the rougher sort," who were "without adult supervision to check their profanity."

It seems that Walden Pond is the hereditary swimming place for Concord lads as well as a sacred shrine for those who revere Thoreau. That any but miniature aristocratic mollicoddlies should be allowed to have themselves in these sacred waters seems incomprehensible to Mr. Grose. An explanation is made, however, by Samuel Bowles, Jr., of the Springfield Republican. Bowles, who is visiting the Sherman Hoars at Concord, Bowles denies that all the swimmers are of the hol polloi, and indignantly protests that almost any day you can go to the pond and see the slick heads of Mayflower descendants sticking up out of the water. There, says Mr. Bowles, you will see Endicott and Philip Lowell, descendants of Governor Endicott, of Connecticut, who probably never saw a bathtub; Henry and Frank Coolidge, sons of Henry Coolidge, clerk of the State Senate, and cousin of the Beacon Street Coolidges; Julian Ballou, son of Murray Ballou, president of the American Powder Company; Steadman B. Hoar, son of the late Hon. Sherman Hoar and admiring brother of the young political Boris Sidis, Roger Sherman Hoar, State Senator, stamp collector and captain of the Harvard chess team in the year it won from Yale; Tong Pao On, son of a great Chinese mandarin and international

merchant; and Charles Edgarton, son of C. S. Edgarton, of the President Suspender Company; the sons of James J. Storrow, of Stedman Buttrick, for any of a number of other prominent Lincoln and Concord families."

However, and the admission is rudely iconoclastic, Mr. Bowles admits that some of the rabble get in the water, too. He does not think that "scions of European nobility with governesses" are needed, but he concedes that he has seen in the pond boys who might say that they "were born without ancestors," though "their conduct is so uniformly courteous that the most careful mothers in Concord do not hesitate to let their daughters, accompanied by some older person, go swimming in Walden."

Shades of the Alcotts! think of it! "Boys of the rougher sort" swimming in a pond not far from "the rude bridge that arched the flood" where "th' embattled farmers fired the shot heard 'round the world." Endicotts and Hoars and Buttricks and Coolidges permitting Smiths and Joneses and Greens and Fitzgeralds and Lomaxes to swim in their exclusive puddle! How improper, Waldo, to do such a thing! Retire to your scriptorium and peruse fifty pages of Emerson at once!

KITCHENER DESERTS.

Lord Kitchener has not only been at the head of vast troops of soldiers, but also has been chief of an army of many million bachelors. His indifference and hostility to women long ago caused him to be catalogued by the fair sex as "hopeless." He was looked upon as a bachelor in perpetuity. But to almost every man, soon or late, cometh a Waterloo of the heart, and Kitchener has, at the age of sixty-one, deserted the ranks of unmarried males. His bride-to-be is about thirty, and is described as very charming.

Kitchener's aversion to women has been noted in verse, for it was of him that it was said: "For you preach the merciless gospel Of the tyrannous gods of stone, That the soldier travels the fastest Who travels the road alone."

Kitchener used to declare that he had little use for a soldier who loved a woman. Once he refused promotion to an officer who had a sweetheart at home. His change of position shows that it is never too late to soften the heart of the most crabbed bachelor. Mrs. Kitchener will show him a thing or two about tactics, and he will find out who's general in the Kitchener household.

A STANZA OF PEACE.

Surely the Philadelphia Press is right in believing that "if President Taft's activities in promoting universal peace resulted in nothing more than the elimination of a grotesque stanza from the English national anthem, our kin beyond the sea would have ample reason to be grateful to the Chief Executive of this nation." The verses of "America," by Dr. Samuel Francis Smith, fitted to the same melody as "God Save the King," are solemn, dignified and reverent in their sentiment of patriotism. The English borrowed this same tune from the Germans and musical antiquarians have traced the tune back to the invading Huns, who may have taken it from Asia into Europe.

Anyhow, Henry Carey, the author of "Sally in Our Alley," was most unhappy in perpetrating such a stanza as this:

"O Lord, our God, arise,
 Scatter his enemies,
 And make them fall;
 Confound their policies;
 Frustrate their knavish tricks;
 On Him our hopes we fix;
 O, save us!"

This absurd verse has given way under the influence of the movement for international arbitration to one which is said to have been approved by King George. It is:

"O Lord, our God, arise,
 Scatter his enemies,
 Make them cease to fight;
 Keep us from plague and dearth;
 Turn Thou our weapons to plow;
 And over all the earth,
 Let there be peace."

Retaining the old stanza in the English national anthem has often added point, we are told, to the assertion that the British lack a sense of humor. "Confound their policies," an expression which conveyed a different meaning in the latter part of the seventeenth century, is comical now. The new stanza is so much better.

VIRGINIAN STATE PRIDE.

President Robert Burwell Fulton, of the Miller School, in a recent address delivered at the dedication of the new library at the University of Mississippi, paid this glowing tribute to the Old Dominion:

"State pride is one of the chief bulwarks of an American republic, and we do well to place its cultivation next to the conservation of State honor."

"In the old plantation days of my childhood in Alabama I heard among the folk songs that were common one that had in it a peculiar strain of patriotism and of pathos. The refrain of this song was:

"O! carry me back to old Virginia's shore."
 "The Virginian, whether master or slave, who drifted westward with the tide of settlement and of civilization in the earlier years, to the end of his days, sang this refrain. Since I have become a Virginian I have learned many reasons for this.

"A beautiful, classic, enchanting scenery, the heritage of a noble history filled with honorable achievement and devoted self-sacrifice for the common good—all conspire to instill patriotic sentiment that is strong and abiding. In quiet dignity this grand old Commonwealth knows, though she does not boast of her services and her vicarious sacrifices. Her children love her and honor her for what she has been and what she is.

and which their faith makes wholly true.

"The words, in part, are these: 'The roses nowhere bloom so white, As in Virginia; The sunshine nowhere shines so bright As in Virginia;'

The birds sing nowhere quite so sweet, And nowhere hearts so lightly beat, For heaven and earth both seem to meet

Down in Virginia."

A very graceful tribute that, and one which Virginians will appreciate warmly.

It is a safe bet that Delegate Wickcrasham, of Alaska, and Attorney-General Wickcrasham are not claiming kin now.

No. "Anxious Inquirer," Gogorza is the name of Madame Eames's husband, and Gorgonzola is the name of the cheese.

Coming events cast their shadows. A Wisconsin man is suing for divorce because his suffragette wife intends to run for Governor.

Voice of the People

Tax Reform.
 To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Many vague charges are being made against the press of the State, and the Press Association meeting at Natural Bridge was obliged to notice and refute these charges. To my mind this outbreak shows that the people are really more and more the great power of the press, and also that the press is trying to meet its obligation in serving the people.

The great mass of the people "feel things," instead of thinking them, and when things go wrong somebody has got to smart for it. Hence these charges.

The average man knows that something is wrong (for he can feel it). He reads in the papers of the tremendous prosperity and growth of this and that city or section, and how the papers (state) the wealth of the South has increased in the sum of \$500,000,000, or some such incredible figure, in such and such a time. The local paper will boast of the sums of money made (?) in speculating in city lots and country places, and carry whole-page ads telling the people how rapidly the prices of lots are going up around town.

Take an average family of six. Is it prosperity for them to have land and to prosper in price around town and pay more rent? Is it prosperity for them to have farm land, which produces their food, jump from \$10 to \$100? Is it prosperity for them to have millions buy 10,000-acre estates, and turn productive land into a pleasure park? Is it prosperity for them to have their little life in personal property to the limit (if they are honest) and let the speculator in land pay on a tax assessment which is (here in Virginia) some about one-fourth of its real value to one-tenth?

Of course, it is not possible to prevent the natural economic rise in land values, but The Times-Dispatch (in common with most other papers) has not guided public opinion along economic lines as it should have done. The public is now suspicious. Do you know that only 20 per cent. of the land of Virginia is cultivated, when food is so high? Do you know that hundreds of our young men and young women cannot buy land? State because they cannot buy land?

The president of the Virginia Press Association stated in his speech that the great question of to-day was tax reform. Is it not so?

"PIEDMONT"
 Charlottesville, Va., July 14, 1911.

Take Better Care of Shockoe Cemetery.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Visiting as I often do—personally interested—the ancient necropolis, Shockoe Cemetery, it is pathetic to note its neglected condition. Weeds, worthless vines hold riotous sway, creating a jungle, a hiding place for the moccasin and other creeping horrors. Granting its precincts are now almost in a state of desuetude, there sleep in its bosom the ashes of the illustrious dead, and conspicuously Chief Justice Marshall and many lesser lights of celebrity—the conspicuous in our State's history, whose names will never die. Richmond stands for her public sentiment and unanimously responds to every call, and in her prosperity it is a commendatory sign the oldest cemetery property around which clusters such time-enduring (and should be hallowed) memories, be so ignored by our city fathers. It is a much-sought Mecca to sightseers because of its antiquity and its famous sleepers. How sad to behold the decay of time and oblivion! There is no more fitting memorial to Richmond and her ancient regime than Shockoe Cemetery. Only one man employed there to do everything, grave digging, etc. One has but to see its pitiable condition to be inspired to plead to the committee on such affairs for a betterment of the state of old Shockoe Cemetery. The builders of our splendor may many of them, are resting there (may I say forgotten?). I hope you will make a strong appeal for one more man in the care of Shockoe. My faith is strong in your pen, which could not work in a holier or more deserving cause.

MRS. H. B. GAINES.

For Better Pensions.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir—Please give me some information: Why is it that we old soldiers who get a little pension don't get more every year, as so many die during the year, which leaves many thousands of dollars? What do they do with it? Don't think it right and justice to those of us who are almost dependent on what little we get to live on to pension all the old soldiers who have farms and money in bank, as some are them? If so, we will not get any more. We think we in justice ought to have a good deal more, so few of us left.

AN OLD SOLDIER.

This is the Day

BANKRUPT STOCK

Hats, Shoes, Shirts

WILTSHIRE'S

1009 EAST MAIN

THAT'S ALL

COUNT IS SENTENCED TO PENAL SERVITUDE

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENAY.

LAST spring Count Patrick O'Brien de Lacy, a conspicuous figure of the Muscovite aristocracy, being descended from one of those Irish and Scotch well born soldiers of fortune who were induced by Peter the Great to enter his service two hundred years ago, was sentenced to penal servitude for life, in the most remote corner of Northeastern Siberia, for having incited his confederate, Dr. Patchenko, to poison by means of cholera and typhus germs certain of his relatives, in the expectation of inheriting fortunes that would otherwise have gone to them. His wife's only brother, Major Count Vassili Bouturlin, was one of the victims, and an attempt was also made on O'Brien de Lacy's father-in-law, old General Count Bouturlin, which did not kill him, but rendered him an invalid. O'Brien de Lacy endeavored to stay the prosecution by baring all the scandals of his father-in-law's life, without avail, and when he was convicted, and given by the courts the extreme penalty allowed by Russian law, that is, penal servitude for life, his wife, who had persisted, against all evidence, in believing in the innocence of the husband, to whom she was so devotedly attached, lost her reason, disappeared, and has never been seen since, although sought far and wide, and in spite of the fact that large sums of money have been spent in endeavoring to find a clue to her whereabouts, to her fate.

General Bouturlin, a widowed and childless sister, Mme. de Lazari, who was likewise the object of an attempt upon her life by Dr. Patchenko, at the instance of Count O'Brien de Lacy, recovered, but was so alarmed by her experience, that she did not consider herself safe any longer at St. Petersburg, convinced that her life was after her money, and took up her residence in Paris, where she made every effort to conceal her identity, and to live in the most quiet and unobtrusive manner. She died quite suddenly, two weeks ago in Paris, of heart disease, and her fortune, amounting to \$10,000,000, fell to her will, which she made many years ago and which she forgot to change, to her niece the missing Countess O'Brien de Lacy. If the latter were dead, then the fortune would go to her husband, the life convict.

At the time when O'Brien de Lacy conceived these murders, and instigated their execution, he was overwhelmed with debts, and was impatient for money. Had he delayed a little longer, he, or rather his wife, would have been placed beyond the reach of any further pecuniary difficulties, by this bequest of Mme. de Lazari.

Many people are convinced that the missing countess is dead. But since it is necessary to establish her demise before the estate of Mme. de Lazari can be settled, the search for her will be renewed, and will extend to this side of the Atlantic. For it is considered just possible that she may, after recovering her reason, have sought refuge and complete oblivion from the terrible past in America.

If Count O'Brien de Lacy was not sentenced to death, it is because capital punishment in ordinary criminal cases has been abolished in Russia ever since the reign of Catherine the Great. While it does not exist in civil procedure, it is retained for military and naval offenses, and if the Muscovite authorities are enabled to send the countess to the scaffold, it is because political offenders, particularly those who have been concerned in nihilist outrages of one sort or another, are not tried by the ordinary tribunals, but by courts-martial, as being beyond the pale of the ordinary law of the land.

Unique among the honors conferred by King George on the occasion of his coronation, was that bestowed by him upon one of his favorite physicians, who had likewise been the principal physician of his father, and of his grandmother, Queen Victoria, namely, Sir James Reid. For, according to an official announcement in the London Gazette, George V. has bestowed under his royal sign manual, granted to Sir James, authority to add to the heraldic devices of himself and of his descendants, following the "honorable augmentation": "On a chief gules, a lion passant, guardant, or armed and langued, azure, being one of the lions of the royal arms." This is to constitute a lasting recognition of the care and attention devoted by Sir James to Edward VII. and Queen Victoria.

Sir James, who is married to the Hon. Susan Baring, sister of Lord Avebury, and Cecil Baring, and formerly maid of honor to Queen Victoria, is a son of the late Dr. James Reid of Aberdeen, and his connection

with the royal household came when he was selected by the late Sir William Jenner, Queen Victoria's regular medical attendant, to look after her and the royal household, during her stays at Balmoral. This occurred some thirty years ago. Sir James, like most of his fellow Scotchmen at the court of England, is possessed of much sturdy independence, and on one occasion, in the early eighties when Queen Victoria resented his remonstrances, he deliberately left Balmoral, and did not return until pressure was brought to bring him back. The squabble was caused at a moment when she had given way to some extravagances, which had become a source of great annoyance to all those around her, as, for instance, when she forced her entire court and household to don mourning and attend the funeral of a young medical student, whose only claim on her consideration was that he had been the nephew of her favorite, her personal attendant and gillie, John Brown. As his solicitation of Princess Beatrice, Sir James expostulated with the Queen, fully realizing that it was most prejudicial to her health of mind and of body to humor these tendencies towards melancholia.

The old Queen, however, took Sir James's expostulations very much amiss. She was very imperious, and being accustomed to administer wiggings to such august dignitaries as the archbishops of Canterbury and York, when they ventured to offer spiritual advice to her not in accordance with her views, and to even boldly silence the torrential eloquence of the late Mr. Gladstone, she declined to tolerate remonstrances coming from a relatively young and obscure doctor, who sided his entire rights to the fact that he was attached to her household. When he left, however, she immediately wanted him back, and from that time forth he became a great favorite, not only with her, but also with every one else connected with the royal household, and especially with her children, by whom he was often trusted with the task of reasoning with her, when their arguments had failed. No one will ever quite know what Sir James went through during the last stay of King Edward at Sandringham, but Sir James spent night after night, sitting by his bedside, to watch for those choking fits, which might come on at any moment, and prove fatal. Indeed, it was a perfect miracle that he managed to bring Edward VII. home alive, to die surrounded by his own family and among his own people, who were honored received by Sir James as a baronetcy, the Grand Cross of the Victorian Order, and the Knighthood of the Order of the Bath.

By degrees, a number of little pieces of kindly thought and consideration on the part of King George and Queen Mary are becoming known, and contributing to still further increase the growing sympathy with which they are being regarded by the masses. It seems that both of them have a warm heart in their hearts for that very picturesque and colorful London street traders known as costermongers, and with the view of showing them some token of regard, invited the presidents and secretaries of the Whitechapel and Spitalfields Costermongers' Unions, to witness the coronation procession from seats specially set apart for them in the stand reserved for the members of the royal household, on Constitution Hill. The invitation was conveyed to them in the name of the King and Queen, by the former's private secretary, General Sir Arthur Bigge, couched in the most cordial terms. As soon as the procession over, they were conducted by one of the royal servants, from the stand to Buckingham Palace, where they were received by one of the gentlemen of the household, and taken to a private room, where a high table had been laid out for them alone. During the meal of this official sat with them, drank to their health in the name of the King, and put them completely at their ease, sending them away delighted. All this was done on the personal instructions of George V. and of his consort.

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